



LENOIR COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

W.E. BILLY SMITH
SHERIFF



P.O. Box 3289
Kinston, NC 28502

July 26, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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AUG 12 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I would like to take this time to explain to you our opposition to the Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We, at the Lenoir County Detention Facility, have found that having a single carrier with a contractual service is best for our type facility.

Advantages include immediate call blocking to prevent inmates from calling and harassing witnesses, spouses, or their victims; immediate cutoff switches which are used to cutoff phone service for disciplinary reasons within the facility; a built in fraud protection feature; and the phone service helps to maintain discipline. These are just a few of the many advantages.

The disadvantage would be that we would not enjoy the protection and service we are now getting. Without these advantages, we would be forced to have the telephones taken out. After all, these are privileges, not rights. Without the telephones, the inmate's morale would drop considerably and probably result in problems for the facility. Before our current service was available, we did not have any phones in our facility for inmate use. And, without the protections we now have, we would be forced to take them out.

In summary, both the inmates and the facility benefit from the current service. If we have to resort to the BPP, the inmates and their families would be penalized more than the facility. Therefore, we urge you not to adopt the aforementioned regulations.

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Respectfully,

Major Lester Gosnell

Major Lester Gosnell

Lenoir County Detention Facility

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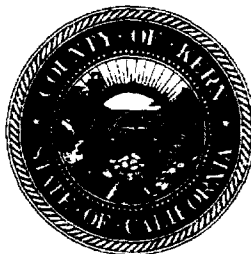
AUG 12 1994

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Carl Sparks
Sheriff

(805) 391-7531



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California-93308

June 29, 1994

Hon. Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal communication commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: FCC Billed Party Preference
CC Docket NO. 92-77

Dear Hon. Reed Hundt,

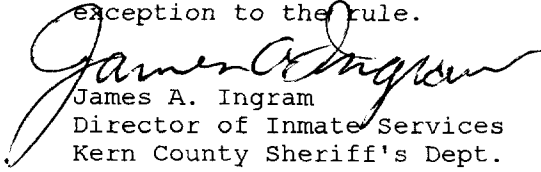
Commissions from pay telephones, used by inmates, are an important source of revenue enabling the Kern county Sheriff's Department to provide education, services, and benefits to the inmates incarcerated in the county jail, at no expense to the tax payer.

The revenue from telephone commissions fund substance abuse programs, classes in parenting skills for abusive parents, religious services, as well as academic programs for a group that has a high illiteracy rate and is in need of very basic education. Most of these programs are mandated by law, therefore, without this revenue the financial burden to support these programs would fall on an already burdened tax payer.

I am informed by the industry that revenue to the county will be eliminated with the implementation of Billed Party Preference. If these revenues are eliminated the only way these programs could be continued would be with money from the tax payer. The revenue situation in this county, and the state of California as a whole, is such that there is no money for such programs.

We oppose the application of "Billed Party Preference" to jail facilities because it limits our ability to manage this very important source of revenue which not only funds the inmate rehabilitation programs but removes a tax burden from the already overburdened taxpayer.

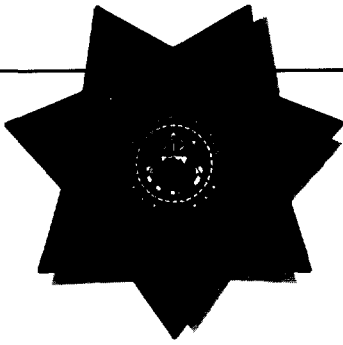
If this proposal is approved we ask that detention facilities be made an exception to the rule.


James A. Ingram
Director of Inmate Services
Kern County Sheriff's Dept.

cc: Congressman Cal Dooley
Congressman Wm M. Thomas
file

JUN 5 12 37 PM '94

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JEFFERSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

200 Jefferson County Parkway
Golden, Colorado 80401-2697

(303) 271-5305
FAX (303) 271-5552

Ronald L. Beckham
SHERIFF

Doug Matthews
UNDERSHERIFF

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

13 3 33 PM '94

July 6, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE, CC DOCKET NO. 92-77

Dear Mr. Hundt:

As the administrator of an adult local detention facility, I oppose "Billed Party Preference" for inmates in my custody.

Frequently, we receive complaints from the public regarding telephone usage by inmate/detainees. The complaints range from harassment and threats, to fraudulent activities. We are currently able to respond to complaints through security measures provided by our phone service provider. I feel an obligation to protect the public and minimize inappropriate use of inmate telephones by those in our custody.

Under Colorado Statutory requirements, the revenues generated through the inmate phone system are returned to an "Inmate Welfare Fund." These funds directly benefit inmate/detainees and the community through the purchase of educational software, vocational training and recreational items. Without the support of telephone revenues, some of these programs could not be provided.

Currently, inmate phone service providers bid for contracts. This keeps the rates for phone calls competitive, and the vendor has a vested interest in controlling fraudulent activities. Prior to this system, the carrier wrote off losses from fraudulent activity.

I oppose this effort that would impair my ability to control inappropriate and sometimes illegal behavior of inmates and threaten the welfare of the community I serve.

Sincerely,

RONALD L. BECKHAM, SHERIFF

Elizabeth Kuhns, Captain
Detentions Division Commander
(303) 271-5405

EK/tm

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505 North Mainman Road
Georgetown, South Carolina
29440

County Of Georgetown

Detention Center

Keith J. McLean
Detention Administrator
(803) 546-3521

KB

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July 05, 1994

AUG 12 1994

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

Re: Billed Party preference; CC Docket No. 92-77

The Georgetown County Detention Center is presently under contract with a telephone provider and as the administrator of that facility I wish to go on record in opposition to the concept of Billed Party Preference. C.C. Docket #92-77.

We are a medium sized detention/correctional facility located on the coast of South Carolina. The bulk of the prisoner population are from the immediate area and this necessitates communication with family and legal advisors via telephone communications. Under the present system all prisoners are allowed unlimited telephone access to make contact with whomever they so chose. The only telephone numbers prisoners can not call to are the numbers of persons whom have requested that the particular number be blocked.

Should the Billed Party Preference regulation become law, I would be forced to assign a staff person to roam the facility a prescribable hour in order to insure access for the prisoner population to telephone communications. This would place an additional financial burden on this county, as an additional officer would require salary, training, uniforms benefits etc. It would also limit the prisoner access to telephone and could possibly interfere with the prisoners access to the courts.

While I am sure there may be abuses with the present system, this regulation would in effect punish this facility operation and more importantly punish the pre-trial detainees who have only been accused of a criminal act.

Please feel free to contact me on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,



Keith J. McLean
Detention Administrator

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June 30, 1994

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AUG 12 1994

Hon. Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal communication commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: FCC Billed Party Preference
CC Docket NO. 92-77

Dear Hon. Reed Hundt,

Commissions from pay telephones, used by inmates, are an important source of revenue enabling the Kern county Sheriff's Department to provide education, services, and benefits to the inmates incarcerated in the county jail, at no expense to the tax payer.

The revenue from telephone commissions fund substance abuse programs, classes in parenting skills for abusive parents, religious services, as well as academic programs for a group that has a high illiteracy rate and is in need of very basic education.

As a retired Chief from the Kern County Sheriff's Department I believe these funds provide an important resource to the institution and the inmates. These funds allows each institution the flexibility to meet the counseling and educational need of those inmates they house.

I oppose the application of "Billed Party Preference" to jail facilities because it limits The facilities ability to manage this very important source of revenue which not only funds the inmate rehabilitation programs but removes a tax burden from the already overburdened taxpayer.

If this proposal is approved we ask that detention facilities be made an exception to the rule.

Harold Matlock

Harold Matlock
Chief, Kern County Sheriff's Dept. (Retired)

cc: Congressman Cal Dooley
Congressman Wm M. Thomas

h6. NY ET 11 9 1994

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AUG 12 1994

UNION COUNTY SHERIFF

JOHN COULTER

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

W. VON TULL
CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF

COURTHOUSE
CRESTON, IOWA 50801

PHONE 515-782-7717

DAVE DANIELSON
CHIEF JAILER

STEVE MAITLEN
DEPUTY SHERIFF

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KELLY HANSON
CIVIL CLERK



July 20, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: CC Docket #92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed Billed Party Preference regulation. The correctional facility inmate phone industry would be severely jeopardized by BPP, affecting inmates, their families and the criminal justice system as a whole. *For this reason, we are asking that inmate calls be exempt from the proposed BPP regulation.*

Over the past ten years, administrators of correctional facilities have been able to put into place a very effective system for allowing inmate phone calls. The right to choose our phone service provider has been key to our success. This service has always been delivered to us at very reasonable rates. What's more, inmate phone commissions have been a significant source of revenue for our facility and have helped us improve it dramatically. *We use this revenue to fund various programs including: law enforcement education; inmate health, education and recreation; jail personnel safety; drug prevention and other community programs; family visitation etc.*

Here are a few of my biggest concerns about Billed Party Preference:

- It strips correctional facility administrators of the right to choose inmate phone providers.
- Technology for BPP would reportedly cost upwards of \$1.5 billion, an expense that would have to be passed along to the consumer.
- Without the authority to process calls, inmate phone providers would no longer have the revenue to provide the sophisticated phone systems used in prisons. The end result: fewer phones with fewer security features. Facilities would have to revert to the old ways of supervising each and every inmate call.
- The average length of stay in jail would increase because inmates would not have the phone privileges required to make arrangements for obtaining bond. *This costs everyone!*
- Under BPP, correctional facilities would no longer have control over inmate calls, which means no call tracking or blocking. Inmates could conceivably harass judges, witnesses, jury members or even the victims of their crimes.
- Without call control, facilities would be unable to control fraud problems currently handled by inmate phone providers.

For the above reasons, and countless others, we believe that THE COSTS OF BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE FOR INMATE CALLS FAR OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS. If BPP does become regulation, we urge you to make inmate calls exempt. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

John Coulter

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OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

P.O. BOX 7 • CHESTERFIELD, VIRGINIA 23832 • (804) 748-1261

CLARENCE G. WILLIAMS, JR.
SHERIFF

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Major Garland G. Stafford
Chief Deputy

Major Ronald C. O'Shields
Courts/Civil Process

Major Barry N. Woody
Jail Administrator

Captain David B. Hutton
Administrative Service

July 26, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Billed Party Preference; CC Docket No. 92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

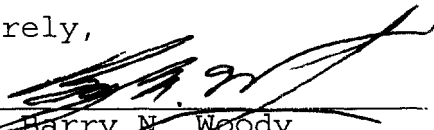
We are opposed to Billed Party Preference (BPP) at our County Jail.

Prior to the use of a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls, with whom we have a contractual agreement, we were plagued by phone fraud and harassing phone calls. More than once we received calls from phone companies indicating they had been defrauded out of thousands of dollars by inmate phone schemes from within our facility. It was also not uncommon for citizens to call and complain of unwanted phone calls from inmates they did not even know.

With the implementation of our single carrier service these problems stopped. Not only were inmates' calls monitored which prevented illegal and inappropriate calls, but revenues were generated by commission which has assisted in paying for inmate services. A comparison of our carrier's rates as opposed to what the general public pays is our carrier is cheaper.

Without a doubt the single carrier service is the best way to go for our correctional facility and I would hate to think of the reoccurring problems awaiting us should (BPP) be adopted.

Sincerely,


Major Barry N. Woody
Jail Administrator
Chesterfield County Jail

cc: The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
The Honorable Andrew L. Barrett
The Honorable Susan Ness

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SDN Users Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 4014, Bridgewater, N.J. 08807

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July 25, 1994

Mr. W. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket 92-77, Billed Party Preference for 0+ InterLATA Calls

Dear Mr. Caton,

On behalf of the SDN Users Association I would like to restate our position on Billed Party Preference for 0+ InterLATA Calls. The Association believes that the current methods to access the 0+ services have the required functionality to reach the carrier of choice. This is the same position that we have communicated in the past, as well as at the meetings with Reed Hundt and Kathleen Levitz, on April 6, 1994.

Our Regulatory Affairs Committee has reviewed the record and the FCC's 'Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making' released June 6, 1994. Overall the Association is very pleased that the FCC is seeking to evaluate costs versus benefits for this proposal. Many benefits have been brought to the marketplace by the FCC's work since Divestiture. Our conviction is that the marketplace is competitive and that services will continue to emerge at reasonable prices.

We are not in a position to comment substantially on the implementation cost, since we are customers, not providers. However, the Association is concerned that the proposed rule, if implemented, will impact costs for the Local Exchange Companies (LEC) that ultimately will be passed on to the end user. If passed, the proposed rule-making could add substantial capital investment, operating cost, and complexity that would negatively effect the customer base using 0+ services. Currently, any exceptions to access availability are addressable through existing rules covering pay phones, such as the Telephone Operator Consumer Services Improvement Act (TOCSIA).

For these reasons and the ones stated in our letter of January 13, 1994, we continue to oppose the Proposed Rule Making for Docket 92-77.

Sincerely,

Linda L. Tratnik
Linda L. Tratnik
President

Copy to: A. Barrett R. Metzger
 R. Chong S. Ness
 R. Hundt J. Quello
 K. Levitz

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Fax: 615-292-6383
Guest House: 615-386-3723

Director
Ariel R. Smith

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July 21, 1994

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Subject: Billed Party Preference: CC Docket No. 92-77

Reconciliation is an organization serving the families of inmates in Tennessee. We understand you will be considering Billed Party Preference and we support the FCC's careful consideration of this matter.

Tennessee is privileged to have a state Department of Correction that has worked closely with families to develop a reasonable inmate phone system. Not all correctional systems allow this positive working relationship. As a result, families of inmates are at the mercy of public or private phone operators who enjoy a monopoly on the phone service.

Reconciliation supports:

- Competition in inmate phone service so that inmate families receive the lowest rates available;
- Phone rates for correctional institutions are consistent with published tariff rates;
- Policies regulating jail and prison phone services that protect families of inmates from arbitrary phone contracts that do not offer the best rate for the consumer;
- Monitoring of prison and jail phone systems.

We appreciate your attention to this matter. As the prison population expands and phone service to inmate becomes a for-profit enterprise, your policy and monitoring role is essential to insure that the vulnerable, namely families of inmates, are protected.

God's Peace,


The Rev. Mary K. Friskics-Warren

cc George Jungmichael, TDOC
Vincent Townsend, APCC
Steven Kin, Morrison & Foerster

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SISKIYOU COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

CHARLES "CHARLIE" BYRD
Sheriff-Coroner

311 Lane Street
Yreka, CA 96097
(916) 842-8300

July 19, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W..
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Billed Party Preference; CC Docket No. 92-77

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

As Sheriff of Siskiyou County, California and a Jail Administrator, I am requesting that the Federal Communications Commission exclude local jails from the proposed "billed party preference" system for 0+Inter LATA payphone traffic rules.

Under the current system, the jail facility has the ability to quickly block telephone numbers of local officials and victims of crimes to stop harassment. There have been many incidents in which victims have called the jail complaining of numerous harassing phone calls from inmates. With our current system, it is easy to stop this type of harassment. Many investigations have been assisted with the use of the on-site computer which logs phone numbers, dates and times. Additionally, we have the ability to enter free calls to agencies such as the public defender, probation, mental and public health. This ability makes it easier for inmates to take care of their needs while in custody. As a result, I feel that the current system is helpful for both the county and the inmates.

The current revenue-sharing arrangement with private phone services allows funding of inmate programs which would not otherwise be available. All phone commissions are kept in a Inmate Welfare Trust Fund which is used solely for the benefit of inmates. With tighter county budgets every year, it is important to find alternate funding for inmate programs which are not mandatory but very beneficial for inmates. Some examples of inmate programs partially funded through phone commissions are, the READ project, the GED program, substance abuse programs, and job training programs.

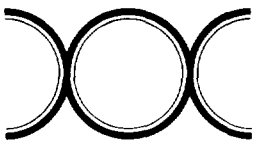
The current private system bears the costs of the telephone units. Because of limited funding, the jail facility would be forced to reduce the number of phones available for inmate use in the facility. The result would be that inmates would have much less access to friends and loved ones. I feel that implementation of the B.P.P. system in county jails would be devastating for both county government and inmates alike.

Sincerely,

Charles Byrd, Sheriff-Coroner

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Minnesota
Department of
Corrections



Office of the Commissioner

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July 25, 1994

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The Minnesota Department of Corrections offers the following comments regarding Billed Party Preference -- CC Docket No. 92-77.

This issue is of great concern to this agency as it relates to inmate phone systems in our correctional facilities. Currently we have 4381 inmates in ten correctional facilities throughout the state. Of this total, 95 percent are in facilities where they now have access to inmate phone systems or which currently have bids out for such systems.

Inmate phone systems are very crucial to the safe and efficient operation of our correctional facilities. Using these systems, it is possible to limit prisoners' calls to only certain authorized telephone numbers or to restrict them from calling certain prohibited numbers. Without such control, prisoners would be able to harass judges, jurors, witnesses and victims, and would be able to conduct illegal business while still confined to prison.

The systems we have installed operate at no cost to the state because the vendor receives a profit on the local and long distance charges paid by the prisoners. In fact, the vendor actually returns a portion of the profit to the state, which is now about \$450,000 per year. This money is used to provide social welfare and athletic activities for prisoners which otherwise would have to be paid for with state tax revenues. In Minnesota, as in every other state, these tax revenues are extremely short.

If Billed Party Preference were an option in inmate phone systems, vendors providing these systems would stand to lose their long distance revenues, and thus would decline to continue providing these systems. It would then be necessary to revert to previous practices which required prison guards to arrange for and monitor prisoners' calls. This system used prison staff that we simply do not have available in light of the ever-increasing inmate population.

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Honorable Reed E. Hundt
July 25, 1994
Page two

There is also an actual benefit for the prisoner who makes legitimate use of telephone calling privileges because the telephone is much more available using the inmate calling systems than when prison guards arrange and monitor the calls. Naturally, the prisoner making illegitimate use would prefer the old guard-handled system.

In summary, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to exempt inmate phone systems in correctional facilities from Billed Party Preference. It is not my intent to suggest how the commission should rule on this issue in other applications, but only in the case of inmate phone systems.

Thank you for your attention to the concerns of the State of Minnesota. I appreciate your soliciting comments on this crucial issue.

Sincerely,

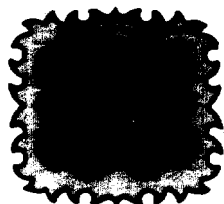
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank W. Wood", written in a cursive style.

Frank W. Wood
Commissioner

FWW:sb

cc Commission members:

Honorable James H. Quello
Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
Honorable Susan Ness



GOLD COAST

4000 WEST FLAMINGO ROAD
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89103
TELEPHONE (702) 367-7111
TOLL FREE (800) 331-5334

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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July 21, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. street, NW - Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Billed Party Preference/CC Docket No. 92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are writing to express our opposition to your agency's proposal to implement the costly Billed Party Preference (BPP) regime throughout the telephone network. Nevada is customer service conscious and BPP will drastically alter our ability to continue to provide our customers with quality telecommunications service.

The F.C.C.'s further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for BPP short-sightedly assumes that the revenue sharing arrangements between providers of public communications services and operator service providers (OSP) are unnecessary costs that do not benefit the public. Nothing could be further from the truth. The commission revenue we receive ultimately justifies our investment in space, equipment and maintenance to provide phone service to the public. BPP will cut off this critical source of funding. Without this necessary revenue stream, we simply could not afford to provide the public with the same level of calling opportunities that we currently provide. We are concerned that your staff has apparently overlooked this important and fundamental dynamic of the public communications industry.

Further, all of our phones are programmed to be in compliance with the Telephone Operator Consumer Services Improvement Act of 1990 (TOCSIA) to allow callers to access the carriers of their choice. We support the proposition that the calling party should be able to access the carrier of their choice and have spent substantial financial resources to see that the consumer benefits of TOCSIA are fulfilled. BPP is clearly a redundant and unnecessary federal response to a problem that has already been resolved.

BPP will impose new and unnecessary costs and inconvenience for consumers. BPP will cost billions to implement and will have continuing costs that consumers must ultimately bear. In addition, consumers will be faced with longer call set up times and will need to repeat billing information to two operators on some calls. In short, it is questionable what, if any, benefits consumers will see from BPP.

Moreover, it does not appear that the Commission has sufficiently addressed the high risk for increased fraud that will occur with BPP. Clearly, there are numerous local exchange carriers (LEC), particularly those in rural areas where many prisons and jails reside, that cannot afford to implement the enhanced screening features necessary to prevent fraud under BPP. Smaller long distance companies may likewise lack the ability to prevent the new opportunities for fraud that BPP will bring.

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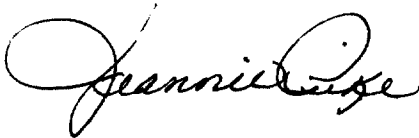
Competition and innovation will also be eliminated by BPP. Prior to competition from independent payphones and operator service providers the LEC's were the monopoly providers of public communications. Competition has brought new service options, greater responsiveness to our needs and fair commission structures.

Finally, like any other business, we are concerned about the rates charged to consumers. As such, we require our payphone providers and OSP's to charge competitive rates only. To the extent that the Commission feels certain consumers need additional protection, it would seem that the better alternative to BPP would be to establish and enforce reasonable rate ceilings.

Although on it's face Billed Party Preference seems appealing, it suffers from numerous flaws. We respectfully ask the Commission to reject it's Billed Party Preference proposal.

Thank you for you consideration in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jennie Ruge". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the distribution list.

cc: The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
The Honorable Susan Ness



Allen L. Ault, Ed.D.
Commissioner

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Floyd Veterans Memorial Building
Room 1458 - East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N. W.
Washington, DC 20554

CE Doc 92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The Georgia Department of Corrections offers the following comments regarding Billed Party Preference - CC Docket No. 92-77. Although the Georgia Department of Administrative Services is responsible for the provision of telephone services for all state agencies, as the service user we are opposed to Billed Party Preference being allowed on inmate telephone service.

We do not feel this proposal is in our best interest because of its impact in three areas - loss of controls currently available on inmate telephone service; the availability of this type service; and the impact of loss of revenue generated by inmate telephone service.

Georgia has automated inmate telephone control equipment in our state prisons that address both our operational needs and the potential for telephone fraud. The Billed Party Preference proposal could force the companies which provide this type equipment out of business.

Automated control equipment provides us the ability to block called numbers, control call duration, control time of day service is available, restrict inmates from calling victims, public officials and prison administrators. This service allows us to manage inmate telephone services with less staff supervision freeing staff to perform more important duties.

Controlled inmate calling service provides the means to reduce telephone fraud and protect private citizens from receiving unwanted telephone communications from inmates in our custody. This service also provides us with administrative reports which aid in greater security, administrative controls and manpower savings.

The loss of revenue from inmate telephone services can have a great impact on services which benefit the inmate population. To date the Georgia Department of Corrections has utilized these revenues to fund items such as substance abuse program, The

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Telecommunications Office

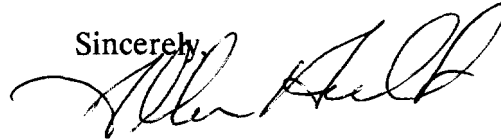
VOICE (404)656-5561 GIST 221-5561 // FAX (404) 651-6447 GIST 223-6447

Honorable Reed E. Hundt
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gymnasium/recreation buildings, recreation supplies, vocational program computer equipment, law library supplies, computer equipment supporting the inmate telephone system, and education classroom supplies. These are just a sample of projects funded with direct benefit to the Georgia inmate population.

I trust this information will be useful in assessing the potential impact if the Billed Party Preference proposal is adopted. It can have great negative impact on corrections and warrants careful consideration. If I can provide additional information, please let me know. I can be reached at (404)656-6002.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen Ault", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Allen L. Ault, Ed.D.
Commissioner

ALA/RC/MM/BSW

LANCASTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICEWILLIFORD L. FAILE, SHERIFF
LANCASTER, SOUTH CAROLINA 29721**RECEIVED**

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

AUG 12 1994

July 22, 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

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In short BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions. Decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Williford L. Faile".

Williford L. Faile
Sheriff
Lancaster County Detention Center
P. O. Box 908
Lancaster, S. C. 29721

CC: The Honorable James H. Zuello
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Susan Ness